

I. Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a computerized transaction interface system to a plurality of exchanges, said plurality of exchanges comprising at least one automated exchange and at least one non-automated exchange, said method comprising:

receiving, at a client workstation, a client order comprising one or more contracts;

automatically selecting, by a facilitation server, one of the plurality of exchanges for execution of the client order based on the one or more contracts in the order and based on electronically stored routing rules, wherein the electronically stored routing rules (i) translate messages between a messaging layer and a message protocol; and (ii) do not handle cancel/replace messages;

automatically delivering, by the facilitation server, the order to the selected exchange for execution;

wherein if, based on electronically stored routing rules, the a selected exchange is the at least one automated exchange; is further automatically processed processing, by the facilitation server, said order to protect a position; and

~~wherein if, based on electronically stored routing rules, the a selected~~
~~exchange is the at least one non-automated exchange, is automatically monitored~~
~~monitoring, by the facilitation server, said transaction in order to take a further position in~~
~~the order's contracts, if necessary.~~

Claim 2 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein selecting one of the plurality of exchanges is also based on a national best bid/offer price for the contracts.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein ~~selecting one of the plurality of exchanges comprises selecting the~~ at least one automated exchange is selected ~~if the order can be executed on the at least one automated exchange.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 3 further including the step of:

placing a facilitation order on the ~~at least one~~ selected automated exchange ~~if an order is placed for more than a predetermined number of contracts.~~

Claim 5 (currently amended) : A method in accordance with claim 4 further including the step of:

placing a contra order against the order on the selected ~~at least one~~ automated exchange.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of creating an instrument evidencing the transaction.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

providing a monitoring system to monitor the status of the order.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 7 further including the step of:

updating the monitoring system as each step occurs.

Claim 9 (previously presented) : A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

automatically hedging the order.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

recording the execution of each step of the transaction.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

recording the execution of each step of the transaction in a database.